

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /138 W

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R 250450 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2173

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 9235

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: POLISH AND HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM

REF: SAIGON 7543

1. SUMMARY. THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES UPDATE PREVIOUS REPORTS ( REFTEL) OF POLDEL/ HUNGDEL OBSTRUCTIONISM IN THE ICCS. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT RECENTLY THEIR TACTICS HAVE BEEN A SHADE LESS BLATANT, ALTHOUGH NO LESS EFFECTIVE IN BLOCKING OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS OF PRG VIOLATIONS. APPARENTLY REALIZING AT LAST THAT CANDEL AND INDODEL WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS EVEN IF THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE, THERE HAS BEEN A TAPERING OFF OF SUCH REFUSALS.

HARASSMENT OF WITNESSES, REFUSAL TO JUDGE EVIDENCE OBJECTIVELY, AND PROTECTION OF THEIR PRG/ DRV SOCIALIST BRETHERN REMAIN THE CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS OF HUNGDEL/ POLDEL INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY- EVEN WHERE,  
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AS IN THE ICCS HELICOPTER SHOOT- DOWN AT LAO BAO, THEIR OWN MEN HAVE BEEN KILLED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ICCS VINH LONG SUB- REGIONAL TEAM INVESTIGATED A BLOWN BRIDGE ON MAY 1. THE BRIDGE, ON ROUTE 7 OVER THE MANG THIT RIVER,

HAD BEEN BLASTED EARLIER IN THE DAY. ALL FOUR ICCS PARTIES ATTENDED THE INVESTIGATION AND SOLEMNLY CONCLUDED THAT A BRIDGE INDEED HAD BEEN BLOWN UP. HOWEVER, EXPLAINED THE POLISH INTER- PRETER TO AN AMERICAN REPORTING OFFICER, SINCE THE GUARD ON THE BRIDGE FAILED TO SEE THE SAPPERS, NO BLAME COULD BE FIXED. HE ADDED, LAUGHING, THAT WHOEVER DID THE DEED " WERE PROFESSIONALS".

3. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AREA DIRECTOR HUE, MAJOR PHAN DINH VONG, SENIOR GVN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE QUANG TRI TPJMT, SAID THAT WHILE OBSERVING THE SHOOTING AT ICCS HELICOPTERS OVER THE PRG CONTROLLED SIDE OF THE THACK HAN RIVER ON MAY 2, A POLISH COLONEL ASKED HIM " WHY THE GVN WERE FIRING" AT THE AIRCRAFT. VONG COMMENTED, " WHAT WILL THEY DREAM UP NEXT?"

4. DURING THE MAY 4 ICCS INVESTIGATION OF A GVN WATCHTOWER OVER- RUN IN HOA TU DISTRICT, THE KHANH HUNG ( SOC TRANG) ICCS POLDEL/ HUNGDEL MEMBERS FOLLOWED A FAMILIAR PATTERN OF SEARCHING OUT MINOR INCONSISTENCIES, OVERLOOKING PROOF OF A VC VIOLATION. CANDEL COMMENTED THAT THE TWO COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT AGREE THAT THE INCIDENT WAS A CEASEFIRE VIOLATION.

5. IN EARLY MAY, HUNGDEL/ POLDEL IN REGION VII CONDUCTED THEIR FIRST INDEPENDENT OBSERVATION. UNLIKE THE PRACTICE ADOPTED BY CANDEL AND INDODEL, THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS MADE NO ATTEMPTS TO INVITE THEIR COLLEAGUES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINDINGS. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL MEMBERS OF TRI TON SUB- REGIONAL TEAM OBSERVED ARVN SHELLING OF NVA POSITIONS MAY 1 ON CO TO MOUNTAIN IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE. THE FOLLOWING DAY THEY FILED A CEASEFIRE VIOLATION CHARGE WITH THEIR REGION VII HEADQUARTERS WHO IN TURN, WITHOUT CONSULTING CANDEL/ INDODEL, DISPATCHED THE CHARGE TO SAIGON. REGION VII CANADIAN DELEGATE BELIEVES COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS ADOPTED THEIR NEW TACTIC IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FROM THEIR SAIGON LEADERS. SAIGON HAD CRITICIZED LOCAL COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS FOR PERMITTING CANDEL/ INDODEL TO FILE BI- NATIONAL REPORTS AFTER POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAD BOYCOTTED THE INVESTIGATIONS.

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6. ON APRIL 24 GVN COMPLAINT THAT THREE OF ITS VESSELS HAD

BEEN SUNK BY PRG GUNFIRE THE PREVIOUS DAY WAS INVESTIGATED BY ICCS REGION V (BIEN HOA). THEIR INVESTIGATION, REPORT NUMBER 27, DATED APRIL 30, REFLECTED THE EXPECTED 2-2 SPLIT, WITH CANDEL/INDODEL PINNING THE VIOLATION ON THE PRG, AND HUNGDEL/POLDEL CONCLUDING THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO REACH A JUDGMENT ON CAUSATION. THEIR MODESTY WAS PREMATURE, FOR FBIS OKINAWA B1117116 Z MAY 73 CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT FROM THE PRG THEMSELVES: QUOTE SOUTH VIETNAM MAY 11 -- THOUGH HAVING BEEN REPEATEDLY WARNED BY THE LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATION, THE SAIGON COMMAND APRIL 23 SENT A CONVOY INCLUDING SEVEN VESSELS FROM BEN LUC TO HIEP HOA. THE CONVOY BRAZENLY PASSED THROUGH BACH MUONG TRAM PORTION IN THANH LOI VILLAGE, LONG AN PROVINCE, UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. TO WARN THIS DELIBERATE ACT OF VIOLATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT THE PLAF OPENED FIRE AT THE CONVOY, SINKING ON THE SPOT THREE VESSELS, INCLUDING A FUEL TANKER AND TWO ESCORTING GUNBOATS. IN FACE OF THE FIRM ATTITUDE THE PLAF, THE SAIGON SIDE HAD TO MEET THE LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE FOR A LINE OF TRANSPORT THROUGH AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE PRG. END QUOTE.

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 AID-20 DPW-01 RSR-01 /138 W  
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R 250450 Z MAY 73  
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2174  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USDEL JEC PARIS  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMCONSUL DANANG  
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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7. COMMUNIST SOPHISTRY CHARACTERIZED THE ICCS INVESTIGATION OF THE MAY 3 ATTACK ON GIA HOA VILLAGE, BA XUYEN. POLDEL OPINED THAT THE ACCIDENTAL DETONATION OF AN ARMS MAGAZINE IN AN ADJOINING RADIO SHACK MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED THE VILLAGE OFFICE. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL DISCOVERED RUST ON THE JEEP WHICH CARRIED FIVE MEN OVER A MINE TO THEIR DEATH. THEY SAID THE RUST SUGGESTED THE JEEP WAS AN OLD INOPERABLE VEHICLE DRAGGED TO THE SITE AND BLOWN UP. SINCE THERE WERE NO DEAD OR WOUNDED REMAINING IN THE VILLAGE WHEN THE ICCS TEAM ARRIVED THE DAY AFTER THE ATTACK, HUNGDEL/ POLDEL DECIDED THERE WAS NO PROOF OF CASUALTIES.

8. AN ICCS TEAM INVESTIGATED THE MAY 10 TRA ON DISTRICT TOWN MORTARING IN VINH LONG PROVINCE, WHICH TOOK NINE LIVES. PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES, GROWING WISE TO HUNGDEL/ POLDEL TACTICS, LEFT THE BODIES IN THE MARKETPLACE SO THE COMMUNIST DELEGATES COULD NOT COMPLAIN THAT NO VICTIMS WERE TO BE SEEN. BUT THE POLES WERE NOT TO BE DETERRED FROM THEIR DUTY, DECLARING IN THEIR REPORT " NO CONFIDENTIAL  
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EVIDENCE THAT THE PLACE HAD BEEN MORTATED WAS FOUND", EVEN THOUGH A CANADIAN CAPTAIN SAID HE HAD SHOWN THE POLISH COLONEL 82 MM MORTAR FRAGMENTS PICKED UP AT THE SITE.

9. GROUND FIRE MAY 16 SEVERELY DAMAGED A 21 ST ARVN DIVISION HELICOPTER NEAR THE CHUONG THIEN VILLAGE OF HOA LUU. THE PILOT MANAGED TO MAKE IT BACK TO WITHIN A FEW HUNDRED YARDS OF VI THANH BEFORE CRASHING INTO A RICE FIELD, SEVERELY INJURING THE SEVEN MEN ABOARD. A REGION VII ICCS TEAM WAS ON THE SCENE, INVESTIGATING AN EARLIER ROCKETING OF VI THANH. CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN MEMBERS WANTED TO INSPECT THE BULLET- POKED HELICOPTER CARCASS, BUT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS REFUSED .

10. A NEW HUNGDEL/ POLDEL TACTIC IN ICCS REGION V IS TO ALLEGE THAT THE AREA IN QUESTION IS OBVIOUSLY CONTESTED AND THAT THE TPJMC SHOULD FIRST DETERMINE WHO CONTROLS IT. ONCE THE INVESTIGATION BEGINS, THEIR PRINCIPAL PLOY IS TO DENIGRATE EVIDENCE AGAINST THE PRG. THIS HAS NOW REACHED LUDICROUS EXTREMES, AS SHOWN BY THESE EXAMPLES FROM XUAN LOC SUB- REGIONAL TEAM. COMMUNISTS CLAIM THERE IS NO PROOF THAT DEAD SOLDIERS ARE PRG BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CARRY PLAF ID CARDS OR BATTLE PLANS; PERHAPS THEY WERE " ARMED FARMERS" OR " BANDITS". BY SAME TOKEN, THEY SAY THERE IS NO PROOF THAT PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS ON THEIR BODIES WERE NOT PLANTED THERE. THEY DISMISS TESTIMONY OF ARVN SOLDIERS AND CIVILIAN WITNESSES AS " LIES", BADGER WITNESSES, AND SEIZE UPON ANY INCONSISTENCY TO UNDERMINE THEIR CREDIBILITY. ON ONE OCCASION, CANDEL PRODUCED A CAPTURED COMMUNIST SOLDIER WHO ADMITTED HAVING BEEN IN PLAF AND TAKEN PART IN VIOLATION. MAN' S IDENTITY WAS CORROBORATED FROM GVN POLICE RECORDS AND INTERVIEWS WITH CITIZENS OF HIS NATIVE HAMLET WHO REMEMBERED WHEN HE LEFT THE HAMLET

TO FOLLOW THE VC. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL CONTENDED THAT GVN POLICE RECORDS WERE RIGGED AND CIVILIANS INSTRUCTED TO LIE. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL SOMETIME SEEM EMBARRASSED BY POSITIONS THEY TOOK, ACCORDING CANDEL, BUT WERE OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM SAIGON AND BIEN HOA.

11. THE ICCS REGION 1 REPORT ON THE APRIL 7 ICCS HELICOPTER SHOOT- DOWN IN WESTERN QUANG TRI HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND FORWARDED TO SAIGON. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT EACH DELEGATION REACHED DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS. CANDEL CONCLUDES THAT HELICOPTER 006 WAS DESTROYED BY A MISSILE. INDODEL GOES FURTHER, BLAMING  
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THE PRG AND HINTING THAT THE TRAGEDY WAS DELIBERATELY PLANNED. POLDEL ADMITS THAT SOME FIRING DID TAKE PLACE IN THE AREA WHERE THE HELICOPTERS WENT DOWN. HUNGDEL, WITH TWO MEMBERS OF ITS DELEGATION KILLED IN THE SHOOT- DOWN, CONCLUDES THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT OCCURRED ON APRIL 7. WHITEHOUSE

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**TAGS:** MARR, VS  
**To:** BIEN HOA  
BUDAPEST  
CAN THO  
EA  
JAKARTA  
JEC PARIS  
OTTAWA

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